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## The Principles of Uncertainty

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by: [Maira Kalman](#)

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### Abstract

Maira Kalman paints her highly personal worldview in an inimitable combination of image and text.   
*The Principles of Uncertainty* is an irresistible invitation to experience life through the psyche of Maira Kalman, one of this country's most beloved artists. The result is a book that is part personal narrative, part documentary, part travelogue, part chapbook, and all Kalman. Her brilliant, whimsical paintings, ideas, and images-which initially appear random-ultimately form an intricately interconnected worldview, an idiosyncratic inner monologue. Kalman contends with some existential questions-What is identity? What is

happiness? Why do we fight wars? And then, of course, death, love, and candy (not necessarily in that order).  
  
The tremendous success of Kalman's 2005 illustrated edition of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* established her as an original, inspirational voice, and the quirky, hilarious, heartbreaking style of *The Principles of Uncertainty* reveals Maira Kalman for what she truly is: a national treasure.  
**Amazon Best of the Month, October 2007**: In 2005 Maira Kalman brought a fresh vision to Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, filling the pages of the reference classic with her whimsical illustrations. And much like its multi-talented creator--who has illustrated children's books and *New Yorker* covers and collaborated on fashion projects with Kate Spade and Isaac Mizrahi--her new book, *The Principles of Uncertainty*, defies easy classification. Is it philosophy? Art? Memoir? Travel? Sociology? The answer is All of the Above (and more). This charming collection of text, paintings, and photography presents a "profusely illustrated" year in a life, with illustrated musings that range from a young Nabokov "sitting innocently and elegantly in a red chair" to two stuffed rabbits in the window at Paris's Deyrolles taxidermy to Kitty Carlisle Hart at home in her "pearly pink palace." Delightful, inspiring, and often very moving, this little charmer is a book you might find nestled on Wes Anderson's coffee table. --Brad Thomas Parsons

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